

370.  
Near East  
Turkey

FEB 14 1949

# FACTS ON TURKEY



1938



1943



1948

TURKISH INFORMATION OFFICE



FACTS  
ON  
TURKEY


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TURKISH INFORMATION OFFICE

444 EAST 52ND STREET, NEW YORK 22, N. Y.

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**T**his booklet should serve as a handbook of facts and figures on Turkey for those needing this information for themselves or in their efforts to enlighten the public.

Only little reliable data exist on that part of the world in which Turkey holds a key position. It has been widely acknowledged, however, that the Turkish Government has done an exceptionally thorough job in compiling the statistical information which can serve as a sound basis for an ethnographical, economic and political study of the position of Turkey. This handbook is an attempt to present these findings, in condensed form, to the public.

Any additional information will gladly be supplied by the Turkish Information Office upon request.



1919

The "War of Independence" begins. The Turks, under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, free themselves from foreign aggression and internal strife.



1923

July. Peace Treaty of Lausanne. New Turkey, freed from external trouble, begins a new era of progress and reconstruction.



Turkey initiates the "Balkan League" advocating the good neighbor policy.

1934



1933

Turkish women achieve the right to vote and of election to the Grand National Assembly.



1932

Turkey joins the League of Nations.



1935

The University of Ankara is founded.



1936

The Straits Convention is signed at Montreux.



1937 Extension of policy towards the Saadabad



1945

Land reform provides land for those who need it.



1945

Turkey participates in the drafting of the U. N. Charter in San Francisco.



1941

The United States includes Turkey among the nations to be aided by lend-lease.



1945

Ratification of the United Nations Charter by the Grand National Assembly.



1946

With the founding of several political parties in Turkey, a multi-party system is established.



1946

The Turkish Workmen's Insurance Act goes into effect.



1946

Turkey is to repay its debt in full.



1923  
October 29th, Turkey is proclaimed a Republic and Mustafa Kemal Atatürk its first President.



1924  
Constitution adopted. Separation of Church from State. Schools are made co-educational.



1925-26  
Abolishment of fez. Introduction of international calendar and clock. Adoption of Swiss civil code frees marriage, divorce and inheritance from Islamic laws. Turkish women achieve social equality with men.



1931  
The metric system of weights and measurements is introduced.



1929  
People's Schools for adults are opened throughout the country.



1928  
Adoption of the new Turkish alphabet, based on Latin characters, in place of the old Arabic script. Introduction of the international numerical system.



the good neighbor East. Signing of Friendship Pact.



1938  
November 10th. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, founder and first President of the Republic, dies.



1938 November 11th. The nation elects İsmet İnönü President.



1939  
Hatay Province is reunited with Turkey.



1940  
Extension of educational program by "Village Institutes" in agricultural areas.



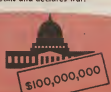
1939-45 Turkey resists Axis advances in the East; breaks diplomatic relations with the Axis and declares war.



1939  
Turkey signs agreements with Great Britain and France regarding the Mediterranean Basin in the event of war.



1946  
Turkey adheres to UNRRA as a contributing nation.  
first nation lend-lease



1947  
U. S. Congress votes 100 million dollars military aid to Turkey.



1948  
Turkey becomes one of the 16 countries joining the European Recovery Program.

## THE CONSTITUTION

On October 29, 1923, Turkey declared itself a Republic. Its Constitution was adopted on April 20, 1924.

The Constitution of the Republic of Turkey found its inspiration in the ideals and institutions of Western Democracy. Its basic principle is sovereignty of the people. The republican form of government is declared inviolable.

Every citizen is born free and free he lives.

Liberty consists in the right to live and enjoy life without offence or injury to others.

All citizens are equal before the law and are obliged to respect the law. Special privilege is abolished.

Inviolability of person and freedom of conscience, thought, speech, press, assembly, association, travel, labor, private property, contract, and incorporation are among the natural rights of citizens.

The life, property, honor, and home of each and all are inviolable.

No one may be molested on account of his religion, sect, ritual, or philosophy.

Primary education is obligatory for all citizens and is gratuitous in the government schools.

## GOVERNMENT

Sovereignty belongs unconditionally to the nation.

All men and women over 22 years of age have the right to vote.

The Grand National Assembly is chosen every four years at a general election. There are, today, three parties represented in the Grand National Assembly, of which the Republican People's Party has a clear majority. The other two are the Democratic Party and the Millet (Nation) Party.

The legislative function and executive power belong to the Assembly. The Assembly exercises its legislative function directly, and its executive power through the intermediary of the President of the Republic, whom it elects.

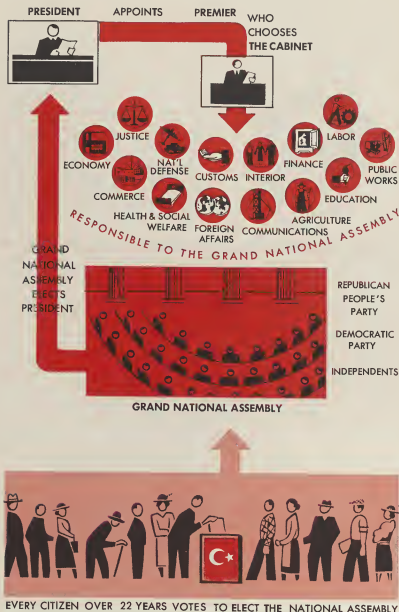
The judicial power is exercised in the name of the Assembly by independent tribunals constituted in accordance with the law.

The President chooses the Premier, who must be a member of the Assembly. The Premier is entrusted with the task of forming a Cabinet, members of which must also be members of the Assembly. The Premier goes before the Assembly with an address in which he outlines the policy of his government. His government stands or falls depending upon whether or not the Assembly approves his program.



# BY THE PEOPLE FOR THE PEOPLE

## THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT



## Mustafa Kemal Atatürk,

the first president of the Turkish Republic, was born in Salonika, at that time part of the Ottoman Empire, in 1882. In 1915, Mustafa Kemal commanded the Turkish army at Gallipoli. Four years later, following the defeat of the Central Powers, he organized the armies of liberation in Anatolia, and commanded the campaign which resulted in the achievement of Turkish independence. In 1920, Atatürk took the lead in the establishment of the First Grand National Assembly, in Ankara, which in 1922 abolished the Sultanate and was the forerunner of the present Republic. It was under Atatürk's Presidency



that church and state were separated, the Caliphate abolished, and the old script was replaced by the modern Turkish alphabet based on Latin letters. Men abandoned their fez and women no longer hid their faces behind veils. Up to the time of his death in 1938, Mustapha Kemal's leadership enabled the Republic to make great forward strides politically, economically and socially, so that today Turkey has become a modern state, dedicated to the principles of peace and democracy.

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Turkey's important part in the United Nations has been acknowledged by the election and nomination of her representatives to 18 main bodies and specialized agencies:

### MAIN BODIES:

- General Assembly (Constituent Member)
- Little Assembly
- Economic and Social Council
- Statistical Commission
- Social Commission
- Commission on Status of Women
- Commission on Narcotic Drugs
- Economic Commission for Europe

### SPECIALIZED AGENCIES:

- International Labor Organization  
(Membership in Governing Body)
- U. N. Food and Agricultural Organization
- UNESCO
- International Civil Aviation Organization
- International Bank for Reconstruction and  
Development (Board of Executive Directors)
- International Monetary Fund
- World Health Organization
- International Trade Organization
- Universal Postal Union
- International Tele-Communications Organization



## Ismet İnönü,

President of the Republic of Turkey since the death of Atatürk in 1938, was born in İzmir (Smyrna) in 1884. He was with Atatürk in Anatolia, and was closely identified with the struggle for independence and the founding of the Republic. İnönü, known as a champion of peace and democracy, has sponsored a number of reforms during his term of office. His regime has seen notable advances in education, the introduction of the multi-party system, a program of land reform, and a trend toward closer cooperation with the world's democracies. In his earlier role of soldier and statesman, İnönü negotiated and signed the Armistice of Mudania in 1922, following the victory. He was the chief artisan of the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923, whereby the Allied powers recognized the new Republic's national and territorial integrity. Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1922, İnönü became Premier in 1923. The Turkish nation has named İnönü president in three successive elections, and today, as in the past, he continues to guide his people's destiny with farseeing wisdom and a sure hand.



Turkey occupies an outstanding position among the 16 countries participating in the European Recovery Program. Of these countries, Turkey, as the farthest eastern point, is the last outpost of Western civilization and culture.





The Strait of Bosphorus is 18 miles long with a varying breadth of about half a mile to  $2\frac{3}{4}$  miles. The Dardanelles are 47 miles in length and have a varying breadth of from 3 to 4 miles. The Montreux Convention guarantees free passage through the straits at all times for merchant vessels of all nations in peace or war.



## AREA

296,503 SQ. MI.  
3,708 SQ. MI.  
LAKES AND MARSHES



## COASTS

4,454 MILES

BLACK SEA  
966 MILES

BOSPORUS  
50 MILES

MARMARA SEA  
592 MILES

DARDANELLES  
60 MILES

AEGEAN SEA  
1,486 MILES

MEDIT. SEA  
975 MILES

ISLANDS  
325 MILES



## FRONTIERS

1,633 MILES

BULGARIA  
124 MILES

GREECE  
127 MILES

SYRIA  
490 MILES

IRAN  
290 MILES

IRAQ  
235 MILES

U. S. S. R.  
367 MILES



## RAILROADS

4,652 MILES

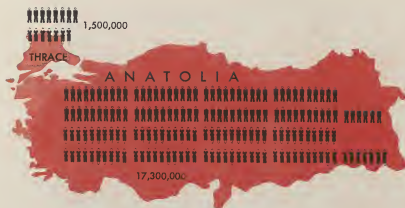


## HIGHWAYS AND ROADS

26,536 MILES

# 19 MILLION PEOPLE...

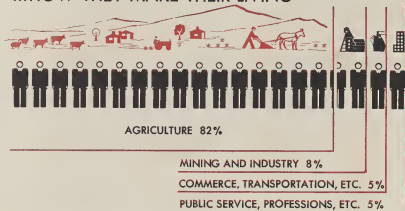
## ...WHERE THEY LIVE



Being a predominantly agricultural country, Turkey has only ten cities of over 50,000 people. Within 18 years (1927-45) the population has increased by more than five million.

The modern techniques of cultivation must be further intensified and backed up by better transportation facilities in order to guarantee adequate production and distribution for the steadily growing population.

## ...HOW THEY MAKE THEIR LIVING





The social system of the Ottoman Empire excluded women from the daily life of men. Girls grew up behind latticed windows and their husbands were chosen by their fathers. As far as possible, the Turkish woman lived within the house, doing only that work which would restrict her to the living quarters. On the rare occasions when she left her home, she was veiled in order to hide her from view. Even in the open country where she had to share the hard work of the fields with the men, she lived in a state of insecurity because her husband could divorce her without recourse to legal procedure.

One of the most important results of the adoption of a civil code patterned after that of the Swiss Republic was the emancipation of the Turkish women. The constitution gave women the right to vote, and today, Turkey has a higher percentage of feminine legislators in its National Assembly than any other country in the world. Turkish women now have equal rights and equal duties with Turkish men. They are physicians, judges, teachers, civil servants, secretaries, executives, artists, nurses, pilots, members of parliament, as well as wives and mothers.

In its program of reconstruction, Turkey will allow no sex discrimination. Thousands of women are employed in the factories, and in the trade-schools there are hundreds of girls learning useful professions which they will practice in all parts of the country.

Thousands of village girls enroll in the "Village Institutes" for a seven-year course aimed at training them to become leaders and teachers in Turkey's program of "Village Uplift" designed to educate the masses of the agricultural population. They are acquainted with all modern methods in agriculture as well as with the social sciences, sanitation, child care, dancing and music. When their training is completed, the girls return to their villages and farms where they become social workers and village leaders.

# NUMBER OF PRIMARY PUPILS

(7-12 YEARS OLD)

1923



1928



1946



Each symbol = 100,000 pupils



The Educational Policy of the Turkish Republic is aimed at reaching all classes of people. The school system has been so established that children of all citizens from all walks of life are given equal opportunity to attend schools of general knowledge, culture and technical training. The only requisite is ability; primary, secondary as well as higher education from colleges and universities to advanced technical institutions being free.

Students of exceptional ability who pass competitive examinations are given scholarships which include board, clothing and other necessities of life.

## ENROLLMENT IN SCHOOLS OF HIGHER EDUCATION



PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS



UNIVERSITIES & OTHER SCHOOLS

1940-41



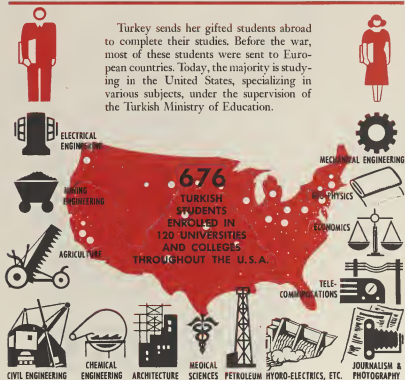
1945-46



Each symbol = 5,000 students



As the Ottoman Empire did not succeed in abolishing illiteracy, the New Turkish Republic has intensified its efforts. It abolished the old Arabic and substituted the Latin phonetic alphabet. Evening schools for adults were established and education became free. One of the most important steps was the founding of the "Village Institutes" which play a leading role in the education of the village youth as well as the adults. As Turkey is still a predominantly agricultural country, this program of the Ministry of Education is supported by the Government with every means. Every year, new schools are opened and new Turkish teachers, studying at home and abroad, are installed in all parts of the country. The institutions of higher learning are constantly being developed and experts from all parts of the world are invited to teach in Turkey.



# NATIONAL RESOURCES AND INDUST



Turkey is predominantly agricultural. Wheat ranks first among Turkish crops, particularly "hard" wheat of exceptionally high quality. Barley, oats, rye, corn, rice, millet are other important grain products. Cotton, citrus fruits and bananas are grown in the south. Tobacco is the principal export crop. (An average of \$30,000,000 worth of Turkish tobacco is purchased annually by American cigarette manufacturers alone.) Turkish figs and raisins, filberts and walnuts are world famous and grown in wide areas. Opium poppy seed, olives, olive oil, flax, hemp, sesame, spices, attar of roses are other valuable export items from the natural richness of the soil and industry of the Turkish farmers. In the last two decades, the Government has encouraged and supported the establishment of industries related to the agricultural production.

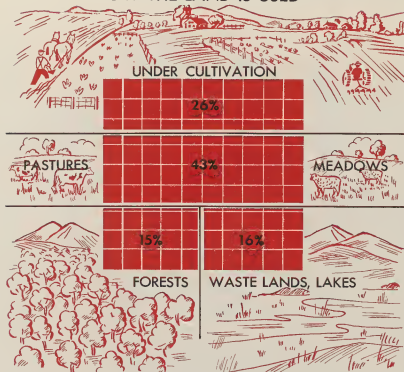


Livestock-raising is one of the outstanding Turkish occupations. Horses, cattle, water-buffaloes, sheep and goats are the main animals. Both they and their products (mohair, hides, honey, etc.) are exported in large quantities.

Turkey has very rich mineral resources. The most abundant item is coal, the quality of which is comparable to any in the world. Second to coal is copper, mined on a very large scale. Next in importance is iron, chromium, manganese, emery, mercury and sulphur. Besides these, there is nickel, tin, cobalt, phosphate, alabaster, platinum, alum, antimony, soda and zinc. Rather recent are the oil fields discovered in the southeast which promise remarkable capacity.

The industries, except those locally connected with certain agricultural products or mines, are located around the larger cities where adequate transportation facilities are available. Therefore, only scattered plants are to be found in the mountainous eastern part of the country despite the fact that the mineral resources warrant more extensive manufacturing activity.

# HOW THE LAND IS USED



In 1944, only 19% of the land was reported to be under cultivation. Today, as a result of the efforts of the Government to aid the agricultural population, more than a quarter of the country is being developed, and it is expected that more arable areas will be converted into cropland. Irrigation projects, agricultural schools and a Government supervised loan policy are of considerable help in this program.

Assistance received from the Marshall Plan will be used to increase production so that Turkey may contribute its share to Economic Recovery of Europe. Throughout the country, agricultural experts have introduced new methods of cultivation and the Government is promoting industries related to the processing of agricultural products. For example, sugar refining has been encouraged by the Government in

## THOSE WHO TOIL ON THE LAND—OWN IT



### 94.3 per cent of the farms are owned by their operators

The rest is leased on a crop sharing arrangement

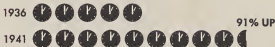
the production of sugar beet. As a result of the reform program of the Republic, 94.3 % of the farms are owned by their operators.

Turkey is the country of small farmholders and a new law (1945) provides that no individual or organization is permitted to hold more than 1,200 acres. The size of the individual farm varies according to the fertility of the soil. The average farm, however, has about 14 acres. Each village has in addition a good deal of common property which may include grazing and meadow land, forests, marshes and mountains. The Department of Agriculture has established stations throughout the country which provide the villages with modern machinery for soil cultivation and harvesting. All current information on modern agricultural techniques is available to the farmers.

#### SIZE OF FARMS OWNED BY THEIR OPERATORS



## MINING AND INDUSTRY — A SIX YEAR RECORD

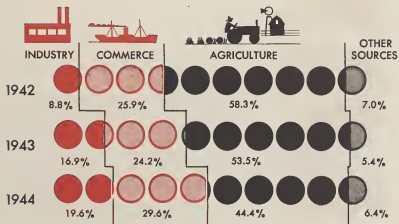


Turkey has great mineral resources. Her output of coal supplies her present needs, but it might not be adequate to meet the requirements of the future when the Republic completes its program of industrialization. Improved mining methods, the newest discoveries of oil and the development of hydroelectric power will help to boost fuel production to the necessary volume. Although copper, chrome ore and a variety of other minerals are in abundance, they are not fully exploited at the present time. Large quantities of these products are shipped abroad. Turkey controls almost a world monopoly on one rare mining product—meerschaum.

The Ottoman Empire was totally dependent upon imports of all types of industrial products. The industrialization program of the Republic, however, has changed the situation. The goal of the program is to establish essential industries with emphasis upon those for which Turkey is particularly well adapted such as copper manufacturing, iron and steel works, the textile industry, sugar refining, paper mills, etc. The constant development of the country's technical schools is an important factor in building up a skilled labor force to meet the needs of a steadily growing industry.

# TURKEY'S INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE GROWING

(DISTRIBUTION OF NATIONAL INCOME IN PER CENT)



To speed up the program of industrialization, the Republic has prepared legislation which facilitates the expansion of private enterprises. Where private enterprise is unable to develop on a large enough scale, the government finances and builds the necessary industries or services.

The growth of industry and the accompanying expansion of commerce are best indicated by their increasing share in the national income. In 1942, they contributed less than 35% to the nation's income. Today, industry and commerce provide half of the national wealth.



# TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

## PROGRESS IN TURKEY'S RAILROAD SYSTEM



Turkey is still in the process of developing her system of transportation. The enormous dependence of agriculture, industry and commerce on efficient railroads and highways has concentrated all possible efforts on this program. Since the founding of the Republic, the length of the railroad system has been almost doubled. Locomotives from the United States have been put into service and more mileage on railroad tracks will be added in the coming years. The lack of modern road building equipment has been the most deterrent factor in the much needed development of highways and roads. It is hoped that alleviation of this shortage will help fulfill the transportation program. A nine-year construction program has already been started with American technical help.

Under the Republic, Turkish merchant shipping has increased. Today, Turkish ships are serving not only in the Mediterranean, but are sailing across the

Ocean. A steadily growing fleet is facilitating the friendly trade connections with foreign ports. Purchases of ships from the United States have greatly contributed to the expansion of the Turkish merchant fleet.

All the major international airlines have made Turkey a regular stop on their world-wide routes and the Turkish Airways Administration operates a network of airlines connecting the principal centers of population.

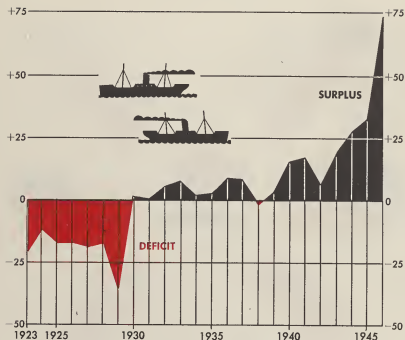
Since the beginning of the campaign against illiteracy in 1925, the number and circulation of newspapers have been steadily increasing. Today, 11 main papers with an average daily circulation of 280,000 serve the principal cities and towns. Three huge radio transmitters provide entertainment, education and news throughout the country.





# TURKEY'S FOREIGN TRADE BALANCE

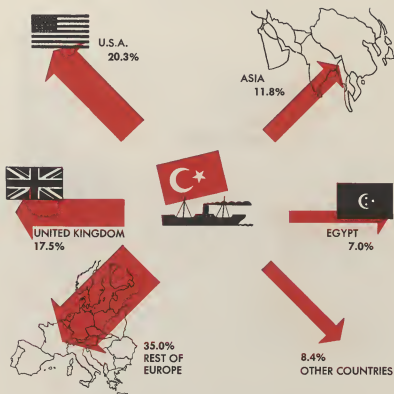
IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS



Under the Ottoman Empire, Turkey's trade balance was very unfavorable. Depending completely on imports of almost any kind of industrial products, Turkey was not able to export enough of her goods to offset the expensive cost of foreign manufactures. Only after the Republic started its program of industrialization and organization of exports, did Turkey succeed in "getting out of the red" and, within a remarkably short time, achieved a positive trade balance which has greatly contributed to the recovery of the country. This was accomplished in spite of depressions and disturbances all over the world which hampered and restricted international trade.



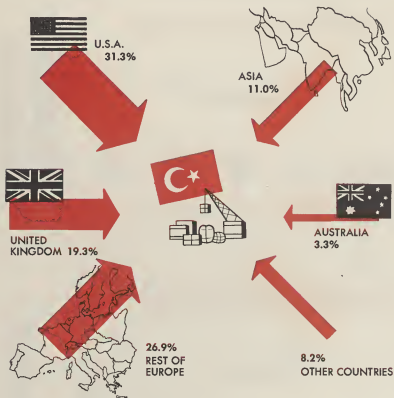
## WHERE TURKEY'S EXPORTS WENT



BASED ON 1946 STATISTICS

Although Europe is a big market for Turkey's agricultural products, the United States are the principal importers, absorbing more than a fifth of Turkey's exports, particularly tobacco, dried fruits, chrome and copper. Other main commodities of export are cotton, hides, nuts and mohair.

## WHERE TURKEY'S IMPORTS CAME FROM



BASED ON 1946 STATISTICS

Before the Second World War, Turkey depended on Europe for her imports. Today, the United States are her main suppliers, providing almost a third of the total imported goods. Besides the badly needed machinery, Turkey's imports consist chiefly of textiles, chemicals, fuel oil and leather goods.

# MAIN COMMODITIES OF TRADE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TURKEY

BASED ON 1947 STATISTICS

## EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES

IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS



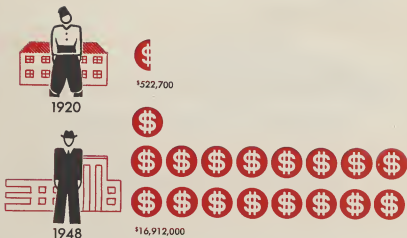
## IMPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES

IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS



Realizing that Turkey pays her bills on time and with good money, trade relations between Turkey and the United States are of the friendliest.

# GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE



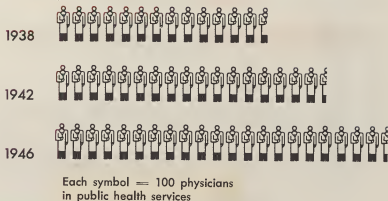
The health of the nation was badly neglected under the Ottoman Empire which lacked the facilities to undertake an efficient health program. The mortality rate was shockingly high and provisions for combatting contagious diseases and dealing with emergencies were completely inadequate. This is best illustrated by the appropriation figures at the time of the inception of the Republic in 1920. In the 1949 budget estimate, however, a sum of \$18,595,000 was allotted for Turkey's medical program.

The Republic has committed itself to a vigorous 10-year health program.

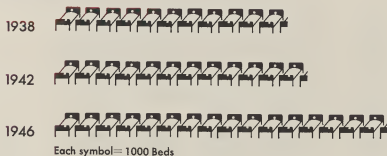
A Nation-wide Health and Accident Insurance Plan includes all workers in establishments employing ten or more. The Plan provides adequate treatment and financial support in case of occupational accidents or diseases; women workers receive free pre-natal examinations, help and care during childbirth and are entitled to 75% of their salary during absence because of childbirth; widows of workers who lose their lives as a result of occupational accidents or disease receive 30% of his wages and an additional 15% for each child; workers totally disabled on the job receive 60% of their former salary. The necessary funds for this Plan are provided by the contributions of the employers.

# INCREASE IN HEALTH SERVICE

## PHYSICIANS



## HOSPITAL BEDS



The growing number of physicians and available hospital beds indicates the progress in the field of health service. The development of medical faculties and support of gifted doctors in completing their studies abroad have been important in the success of the health plan.

# INCREASE IN BANK DEPOSITS

IN THE 13 MORE IMPORTANT PRIVATE BANKS



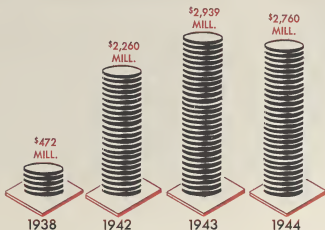
Each symbol=20 million dollars

The progress of modern Turkey rests upon a healthy structure of public finance. A stable currency and a balanced budget are regarded by the government as essential to national rehabilitation.

The confidence of the population in the national financial structure is best indicated by the people's confidence in the banks to which they entrust their savings and transactions. Excluding village cooperatives with banking facilities, there are some 40 banks in Turkey whose paid-in capital and reserves total almost 400 million dollars.

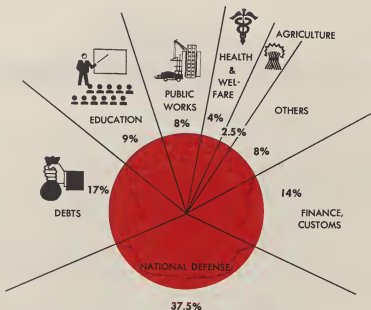
Foreign investments in Turkey are negligible. The financial backbone of the nation consists of the thrift of its individual citizen.

## TURKEY'S NATIONAL INCOME



# TURKEY'S GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

1948



Turkey's geo-political situation and her alignment with the Western democracies have made it imperative to devote a considerable part of the budget, as is the case in many countries, to building up her National Defense. Great pains have been taken, however, to avoid curtailing the vital tasks of the Government. Despite the heavy financial burden of armament, Turkey is proud that she is able to devote a great part of the budget to Education, Health and Welfare, Public Works and support of the agricultural program. In addition, she has been able to repay her debts, as was evidenced in 1946 when she was among the first nations to repay her lend-lease debt in full. Turkey was also a contributing member of the UNNRA program to help the needy nations of Europe.



During these 25 years, the Republic has transformed the land and its people. It has achieved astonishing results in every sphere of cultural and technological progress.

A land which was once thought of as a far-off place full of sultans, camels and harems has become a modern state based on Western democracy and on the fundamental principles of human rights. A nation which for centuries was ruled by autocratic methods and policies influenced by foreign powers has made her men and women free to decide their fate for themselves.

Almost without bloodshed, a revolution has taken place which has changed all ways of life tremendously. Political Turkey has become a country respected by all other nations. It is capable of dealing with every situation with the firm conviction that Turkey is part and spearhead of the West, the bastion of democracy in the East. In social fields, Turkey has achieved a standard favorably comparable with that of any other country, and, at a time when unrest and uncertainty paralyzes the world, Turkey is on her way to a well-balanced economy.

Turkey has shown that her road has been the right one, that she can help herself if given the right tools at the right time and that her efforts to achieve her goal have been fruitful.

Much has been accomplished in these 25 years. Much more remains to be done in the future. Turkey has proved that she can be trusted to fulfill her pledge to work and fight for freedom, peace and democracy.

This little booklet is a brief report, highlighting the main achievements of the past 25 years. It is hoped that it will serve as a message of goodwill.



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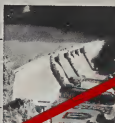
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NEW YORK 22, N. Y.



1923



1928



1933